

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

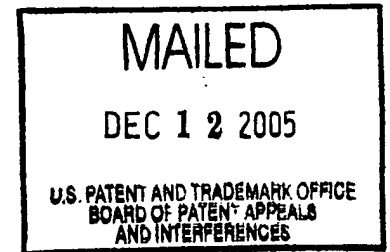
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte MASAMI TOYAMA,
MOTOMI TAKEMOTO, AKINORI YOSHIDA,
HIROAKI IKEDA, TOMOKAZU KATO
and JUNKO NATSUME

Appeal No. 2005-2187
Application No. 09/160,267

ON BRIEF



Before HAIRSTON, BARRY, and LEVY, Administrative Patent Judges.
HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 1 through 12, 14 through 25 and 33 through 39.

The disclosed invention relates to an image forming apparatus in which each of a plurality of operational modes of the apparatus is represented by a different color on a predetermined area of a display screen.

Claim 1 is illustrative of the claimed invention, and it reads as follows:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image forming section for forming an image in a plurality of operational modes;
a display device for displaying information on a screen thereof, the display device displaying information on a predetermined area of the screen in a plurality of colors in response to a color display signal; and
a controller for determining the operational mode of the image forming apparatus and providing a color display signal to the display device to change the color to be displayed on said predetermined area of the screen according to the determined operational mode.

The references relied on by the examiner are:

Okamoto et al. (Okamoto)	5,602,625	Feb. 11, 1997
Knodt et al. (Knodt)	5,987,535	Nov. 16, 1999
		(filed Sept. 15, 1997)
Kajita	5,999,708	Dec. 7, 1999
		(filed Jul. 30, 1996)

Claims 1, 4 through 6, 9, 14, 17 through 19, 22, 33 through 36, 38 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto in view of Knodt.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10 through 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23 through 25 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okamoto in view of Knodt and Kajita.

Reference is made to the brief and the answer for the respective positions of the appellants and the examiner.

OPINION

We have carefully considered the entire record before us, and we will reverse the obviousness rejections of claims 1 through 12, 14 through 25 and 33 through 39.

During a jam clearance operation (i.e., mode) in the copying apparatus disclosed by Okamoto (Figures 1, 4 and 12), different portions of the copier are displayed in different colors on a LCD 102 to aid in the jam clearance (column 6, lines 2 through 4; column 26, lines 25 through 35; column 45, lines 1 through 19). Appellants argue (brief, pages 7 through 10) that Okamoto neither teaches nor would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art the use of a color designation to indicate the operational mode of the copying apparatus. We agree with the appellants' argument.

Knodt discloses three different operational modes (i.e., copy, print and fax) (Figures 2 and 4), but each mode is merely highlighted/darkened when it is selected as the operational mode (column 4, lines 25 through 27 and lines 45 through 56). Appellants argue (brief, page 7) that "the display of Knodt does not show or suggest the use of color as an indicator of any type." Inasmuch as the highlighting is the same for each

operational mode in Knodt, we agree with appellants' argument that Knodt does not use a plurality of colors to differentiate the different operational modes.

In summary, appellants argue (brief, page 9) that "there is absolutely no suggestion in the Okamoto or Knodt patents to provide a change in any color on the display . . . in response to a determined operational mode." We agree. Thus, the obviousness rejection of claims 1, 4 through 6, 9, 14, 17 through 19, 22, 33 through 36, 38 and 39 is reversed.

The obviousness rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 10 through 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 23 through 25 and 37 is reversed because the copier teachings of Kajita fail to cure the noted shortcomings in the teachings of Okamoto and Knodt.

DECISION

The decision of the examiner rejecting claims 1 through 12, 14 through 25 and 33 through 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is reversed.

Appeal No. 2005-2187
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REVERSED

KENNETH W. HAIRSTON
Administrative Patent Judge

DANCE LEONARD BARRY
Administrative Patent Judge

BOARD OF PATENT
APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

STUART S. LEVY
Administrative Patent Judge

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